

DIAA Board of Directors' Meeting
Thursday, May 14, 2020 – 9:00 A.M.
Video Conference Call

Meeting Minutes

I. Opening

A. Call to Order

Dr. Layfield called the meeting to order at 9:20 am. (Delay due to technical difficulties)

B. Roll Call

The following DIAA Board members were present: Dr. Kathleen Andrus, Dr. Bradley Bley, Mike Breeding, Robert Cilento, Dr. Matt Donovan, Dr. Evelyn Edney, Vetra Evans-Gunter, Dr. Kevin Fitzgerald, Bruce Harris, Mike Hart, Jeremy Jeanne, Ted Laws, Dr. Bradley Layfield, Chuck Little, Douglas Thompson, Stan Waterman, and Michael Rodriguez, Associate Secretary of Education. Robert Watson was unable to attend.

Laura Makransky, Deputy Attorney General, and DIAA staff Donna Polk and Amoscita Rodriguez were also in attendance.

C. Approval of Agenda

Mr. Cilento made a motion to approve the agenda; the motion was seconded by Mr. Little and carried with a unanimous vote 16 – yes [Andrus, Bley, Breeding, Cilento, Donovan, Edney, Evans-Gunter, Fitzgerald, Harris, Hart, Jeanne, Laws, Layfield, Little, Thompson, and Waterman] and 0 no.

D. Approval of Minutes of DIAA April 9, 2020 Board Meeting

Mr. Laws made a motion to approve the April 9, 2020 Minutes; the motion was seconded by Mr. Cilento and carried with a vote 16 Yes [Andrus, Bley, Breeding, Cilento, Donovan, Edney, Evans-Gunter, Fitzgerald, Harris, Hart, Jeanne, Laws, Layfield, Little, Thompson, and Waterman] 0 – No.

III. Coronavirus COVID-19 Impact

F. DSMAC Recommendation for Physicals

Dr. Bley informed the Board that the DIAA Sports Medicine Advisory Committee (DSMAC) met and they are considering changing the requirement of students having annual physicals to making the requirement every other year. He also stated that the history form has been updated based on national guidelines and every student athlete would be required to complete this form.

There was discussion and concern about changing the physical requirement and there were inquiries about if the history forms would be updated to include questions regarding COVID 19. Mr. Rodriguez suggested that DIAA include the Susan Haberstroh (DOE Director of Student Support) and Ann Covey (DOE Director of School Nurses) in discussions regarding these topics.

Dr. Bley stated that he would obtain more information from the Board of Pediatrics and other physicians.

Dr. Layfield made a motion to forward this topic to the Rules and Regulations Committee; the motion was seconded by Dr. Donovan and carried with a unanimous vote of 16 yes [Andrus, Bley, Breeding, Cilento, Donovan, Edney, Evans-Gunter, Fitzgerald, Harris, Hart, Jeanne, Laws, Layfield, Little, Thompson, and Waterman] and 0 no.

Dr. Bley left the meeting at 10:08 am.

E. DIAA Financial Report

Ms. Polk reported that there is an approximate loss of \$220K of revenue due to the cancellation of the basketball semifinals and finals, and all Spring Sports championships. DIAA is still collecting outstanding revenue from member schools.

The Board expressed concern about the possibility of replenishing the loss of revenue. Ms. Polk informed the Board that she is working with the Department of Education to find possible remedies for this situation.

Ms. Evans-Gunter made a motion to approve the financial report. The motion was seconded by Mr. Laws and carried with a unanimous vote of 15 yes [Andrus, Breeding, Cilento, Donovan, Edney, Evans-Gunter, Fitzgerald, Harris, Hart, Jeanne, Laws, Layfield, Little, Thompson, and Waterman], and 0 no.

II. Action Items

A. Request to Waive Season Start Date by Smyrna High School

Smyrna High School requested a waiver of the DIAA Fall Sports 1st Competition date of September 9th 2020 for the 2020 football season. Bill Schultz, Athletic Director, stated that this request would allow Smyrna HS to play an out of state opponent (Loyola Blakefield, MD) on September 4th 2020. After an extensive search for games from Maryland, New Jersey and Pennsylvania Smyrna HS was able to schedule a game with Loyola Blakefield at Smyrna on Sept 4th at 7:00 PM. With this request Smyrna also requested a waiver of 4.1.1 and 4.2.1.3 to allow the football team to start their 1st practice day on Friday August 14th 2020 in order to allow for the 21 days of practices, the current 1st practice date of August 17th 2020.

Dr. Fitzgerald made a motion to approve Smyrna HS' request, the motion was seconded by Mr. Cilento and carried with a unanimous vote of 15 yes [Andrus, Breeding, Cilento, Donovan, Edney, Evans-Gunter, Fitzgerald, Harris, Hart, Jeanne, Laws, Layfield, Little, Thompson, and Waterman] and 0 no

B. Proposed Amendments to DIAA Regulations

- i. 1009 2.7.5 – Limited Participation Eighth Grade Students
- ii. 1009 5.3 State Championships
- iii. 1008/1009 1.0 – Definitions
- iv. 1008/1009 1.5 – Scrimmages
- v. 1009 – Unified Sports Regulation

Dr. Layfield made a motion to approve the five regulation changes for publication after the June meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Jeanne and carried with a unanimous vote 15 yes [Andrus, Breeding, Cilento, Donovan, Edney, Evans-Gunter, Fitzgerald, Harris, Hart, Jeanne, Laws, Layfield, Little, Thompson, and Waterman], and 0 no.

C. Approval and Appointments of DIAA Committee Members

DIAA Committee Appointment Recommendation Per DIAA Regulation 1006.3.2.2.4. – The following people were submitted to the DIAA Board for approval to be a member of the Committees listed:

Rules and Regulation – recommend (3 yrs)

Jeremy Jeanne, Patrick L. Jones, Julie Knowles, Chris Nutter, David Marvel III , Amanda Minutola, Stephen K. Oscar, and Eric Stancell

Reappointment – recommend (3 yrs)

Bradley Layfield , and Josette McCullough

Girls Basketball – recommend (3 years)

Emma Trammell, and Patrick Woods

Reappointment (1 year)

Michelle Whalen

Officials – recommend (3 years)

John Brady, Jennifer Eckman-Hagan, Matthew Sabol, Kevin Smith, Rodney Smith, and Layne Drexel –

Reappointment (1 year)

Chris Eddy, Patrick Jones, Chris Nutter, and Joe Thomson

Baseball – recommend (3 years) Reappointment

Mel Gardner, Jim McFarland, Jim Hudson, and Matt Donovan

Boys Basketball – recommend (1 year) Reappointment

Brian Fahey, Tiff McCullough, Jim Powell, and Joseph Thomson

Boys Lacrosse – recommend (1 year) Reappointment

JP Bennett, Bud Hitchens, Joe Lahutsky , and Jim Reynolds.

Field Hockey – recommend (1 year) Reappointment

Jessica Bloch, Amanda Frampton, Cathy Jackson, Stefany Krygier, and

Golf - recommend (3 year)

Zack Robie

Reappointment – (1 year)

Kevin Charles, Jay Mankus, and Steve Yiengst

Softball - recommend (1 year) Reappointment

Karen Pritt, David Swift, Eileen Voltz, John Wells,

Track - recommend Reappointment – (1 year)

Jim Fischer, Marnie Giunta, Peg McCoy, and Rick Schuder

Girls Lacrosse - recommend (3 year)

Gayle Ruffins

Mr. Hart made a motion to approve the committee appointment recommendations. The motion was seconded by Dr. Donovan and carried with a

vote of 14 yes, [Andrus, Breeding, Cilento, Donovan, Edney, Evans-Gunter, Fitzgerald, Harris, Hart, Laws, Layfield, Little, Thompson, and Waterman] 0 no and 1 abstention (Jeanne).

III. Coronavirus COVID-19 Impact

A. Cancellation of 2020 Spring Sports Season

Dr. Fitzgerald made a motion to officially cancel the 2019/20 Spring Season, due to COVID 19 and the Governor's State of Emergency. The motion was seconded by Dr. Edney and carried with a unanimous vote 15 yes [Andrus, Breeding, Cilento, Donovan, Edney, Evans-Gunter, Fitzgerald, Harris, Hart, Jeanne, Laws, Layfield, Little, Thompson, and Waterman], and 0 no.

B. NFHS to Suspend Printing of Spring Sports Rules Publications for Spring 2021

Ms. Polk informed the Board that the NFHS will not be printing or updating Rule Books for the 2021 Spring Season. She will advise Athletic Directors to hold on to the Spring Rule Books that were distributed this year. Mr. Jeanne suggested that DIAA include a link of the online publications on the DIAA website in case Rule books have been misplaced or there is a need for additional books. Ms. Polk stated that she would also refer ADs, coaches, etc to DAAD if they need resources.

No motion or vote was needed for this informative topic.

C. DIAA Spring Sport Fees

Ms. Polk requested that the Board allow DIAA to credit Official Associations and member schools who paid for the 2020 spring sports fees. Mr. Hart made a motion to approve this request and the motion was seconded by Mr. Cilento; the vote carried unanimously with a vote of 15 yes [Andrus, Breeding, Cilento, Donovan, Edney, Evans-Gunter, Fitzgerald, Harris, Hart, Jeanne, Laws, Layfield, Little, Thompson, and Waterman], and 0 no.

D. DIAA Student Leadership Conference

Ms. Polk requested that due to COVID19 and the financial impact, DIAA be permitted to suspend the overnight Student Leadership Conference that is usually held the first weekend in August and instead conduct various conferences throughout the upcoming school year.

Dr. Layfield made a motion to approve the request, the motion was seconded by Mr. Hart; the motion carried with a unanimous vote of 15 yes [Andrus, Breeding, Cilento, Donovan, Edney, Evans-Gunter, Fitzgerald, Harris, Hart, Jeanne, Laws, Layfield, Little, Thompson, and Waterman], and 0 no.

E. DIAA Sportsmanship Award

Ms. Polk suggested that due to the financial impact of COVID 19 that the Sportsmanship Awards be suspended for the 2019/20 school year; she reminded the Board that each winning school is awarded a \$500 stipend and a customized banner (the total cost for banners is about \$3000).

Mr. Laws stated that some schools have already been preparing to submit their nomination and he didn't think that the students should lose this opportunity because of everything else that was lost due to COVID-19. Mr. Jeanne made a motion that DIAA still have the Sportsmanship Awards, and only award banners, not the stipends. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hart and carried with a unanimous vote of 15 yes [Andrus, Breeding, Cilento, Donovan, Edney, Evans-Gunter, Fitzgerald, Harris, Hart, Jeanne, Laws, Layfield, Little, Thompson, and Waterman], and 0 no.

G. 2020-21 Summer and Sport Playing Seasons – Return to Play

Ms. Polk stated that DIAA will be dedicated over the next several months to provide guidance and recommendations to assist with a return to play plan for athletic activity and participation. DIAA will work to review DIAA regulations found in 14 DE Admin Code 1000 Student Activities, tournament manuals and approved policies to address roadblocks to ensure athletics will operate with the least impact for all public, charter and private schools.

No concrete decisions or discussion can continue regarding this until after guidance is received from the Governor regarding COVID 19.

There was no motion or vote for this informative topic.

IV. Lifetime Achievement Awards

Dr. Fitzgerald made a motion that Kevin Charles, Jim Harvey and Debbie Corrado be nominated for DIAA Lifetime Achievement Awards. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cilento and carried with a unanimous vote of 15 yes [Andrus, Breeding, Cilento, Donovan, Edney, Evans-Gunter, Fitzgerald, Harris, Hart, Jeanne, Laws, Layfield, Little, Thompson, and Waterman], and 0 no.

The Board instructed Ms. Polk to notify the nominees via letters and inform them that they will be awarded at the Annual Meeting in January 2021.

V. DIAA Executive Director Report

- 1) Friday Night Lights was a great idea, there was a lot of support and participation.
- 2) Harry Roberts Scholarship Recipients will be announced next week (week of May 18th).
- 3) NFHS is scheduled to have a SMAC meeting on Saturday, May 16, 2020 and one off the topics include obtaining goggles for Field Hockey.
- 4) NFHS will not be having the annual summer meeting, but there will be online training June 28-July 2, 2020 and it is free to participants.

- 5) There will be a virtual National Student Leadership Summit July 20-22, 2020.
- 6) Officials Committee met for the first time in two years.

VI. DIAA Committee Report

There were no reports given to the Board.

VII. Other Items for Discussion Only

- Mr. Laws informed the Board that Tom Coulter passed away and there may be a memorial in the near future. Mr. Jeanne suggested adding Mr. Coulter as a lifetime achievement award nominee (posthumously).
- Mr. Hart inquired when the 2020/21 school year budget will be available for review by the Board. Mr. Hart also inquired as to why DIAA is not permitted to utilize the budget reserved funds. Ms. Polk informed him that reserve funds are utilized for operations at the beginning of the fiscal year until more revenue is received.
- Mr. Laws inquired if the Board could use Zoom instead of Go To Meeting for future virtual meetings. Ms. Polk said she would look into this.

VIII. Public Comment

No public comment

XI. Adjournment

Mr. Jeanne made a motion to adjourn the meeting; the motion was seconded by Mr. Laws and carried with a unanimous vote of 15 yes [Andrus, Breeding, Cilento, Donovan, Edney, Evans-Gunter, Fitzgerald, Harris, Hart, Jeanne, Laws, Layfield, Little, Thompson, and Waterman], and 0 no. The meeting adjourned at 11:34 am.